

INTERIM REPORT ON LABORATORIUM

FEUERSTEIN

Attached is an interim report on the Feuerstein Laboratory at Ebermannstadt by Lieuts. Howard and Tompkins, USNR.

TICOM/M-1, M-2, M-4a, and the appendices to M-4a which were issued as I-43, refer.

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MEMORANDUM

FROM: Lieuts. C.B. TOMPKINS and J.H. HOWARD, USNR.
TO: TICOM

SUBJECT: Interim Report on Feuerstein Laboratory.

This report will be divided into five parts, which do not separate cleanly, chosen to list in as clear a manner as possible the actions taken and observations made at Ebermannstadt since the arrival of the originating officers 16 July. These divisions are:

- I. Condition of Establishment.
- II. Plans and Future Needs.
- III. Visitors - before and after 16 July.
- IV. Prof. Oskar Vierling.
- V. Other Personnel.

I. CONDITIONS.

On 16 July the German Army hospital was being moved out, leaving a great deal of filth and confusion. Heavy traffic continually moved through the corridors making security very difficult. The most imperative need was to help Lt. Lyman with this situation. The POW was quartered in considerable comfort in the transmitter building about 1 mile from the laboratory.

Messing at the time was with the CP of the 778 AAA Battalion. Since then, Lt. Lyman has set up a mess in a large room of the laboratory formerly used as a hospital ward.

Prof. Vierling turned his force to cleaning after the hospital personnel left--the last departing 19 July. The hospital left all rooms clogged with bunks and equipment which are now being stacked in rooms on the top deck of the laboratory. The cleaning was imperative for engineering and sanitary reasons before the experiments could be set up.

The equipment was in great disorder, and was not being straightened out. A definite move was made by the originators of this report to have the major experiments set up rather than spending time on meticulous housecleaning, arranging small parts, and putting basic shop and lab equipment into shape. Most of the experimental models had been moved around the country and was finally piled into two rooms. Much was damaged.

A long series of interviews with Prof. Vierling took place to ascertain the general condition of the experiments. These lasted more or less until 19 July, by which time enough clean space was available to start setting up experiments and enough information was at hand to judge what experiments should be set up.

A heavy traffic in visitors continued until, on 18 July, several loafers claiming that they were working on a truck and claiming that they needed laboratory tools were evicted. The personnel of the laboratory were warned to forego visitors, a pass system was placed in effect, and stern attitudes were taken when laboratory personnel complained through Prof. Vierling. Vierling became most cooperative when the situation was explained adamantly.

No general description of the buildings is included, since this report is intended primarily for use by officers expected to visit the laboratory. For others, it is a huge outfit unbelievably well equipped.

II. PLANS

As soon as floor space and sufficient information was at hand, a request that he set up experiments was made to Prof. Vierling. Key engineering personnel had been given leave until 1 August, but they will be recalled by Monday, 22 July. By that time repairs to the wiring--which was largely ripped out by the hospital--will have progressed sufficiently to allow use of the whole second floor (6-man style) for experiments.

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agents, etc.) will be set up as time, workers, interest, and their state of readiness dictate. Prof. Vierling has already set up his experiments for making a speech writer, a project adjudged to be of questionable immediate interest.

The third floor, German count, is devoted to officers' living quarters. It is being cleaned and will become fairly comfortable. The men are living on the first floor of the laboratory and in the transmitter building in fair comfort.

A mess is functioning. A ration was drawn from near Nuernburg, but Lt. Lyman was told that this ration dump plans to stop issues to groups of fewer than fifty.

Monetary matters worry Vierling. He has enough money to pay his help for two more weeks, which he proposes to do, but not enough to continue longer.

It is not known what the status of this enterprise with the military government unit is. Vierling, as explained below, is wanted by them and is here only on borrowed time unless some steps are taken. The military government is on thin ice in not arresting him immediately, for no papers of any kind directing this abstinence are available. Vierling evidently owns the whole laboratory, and the Allies seem to have no rights in it unless it is seized.

Rumors floating around say that all businesses in Germany operated by pre-1937 Nazis (probably including Vierling) will be closed by 27 July. There is also some question as to whether Vierling can lawfully continue research at this time on the basis of the type of work done, irrespective of political leanings. It is considered to be urgent that some definite steps be taken to stabilize this investigation in a legal sense.

III. VISITORS

Col. E. Schroter, of Great Britain, visited the laboratory on 13 July and was allowed to enter by the Third Army, then in charge. He was allowed to leave with two empty metal boxes and with a piece of equipment which Vierling claims is a duplicate of a Phillips Communications Receiver seen here and which is described as a UHF Field Strength Measuring instrument in the notes of the 91st AAA Group, which were presumably dictated by Col. Schroter.

According to Vierling, a Lt. Anderegg (spelling approximate) of the United States Navy called and departed with two complete Nachtfee equipments (a radio equipment for fighter airplane control or direction). This happened before Lt. Lyman's arrival.

Major Denton of the 91st AAA Group and a wandering Army Lieutenant both have happened in. Major Denton wants the party here to look at a Siemens laboratory in Pritzfield to determine whether it is of interest; the lieutenant was looking for a specific target, and when he was denied admissions to the laboratory to seek it here, he tried to give his mission to this party in a tired, friendly, beaten down way. In this connection, Vierling says that C. Lorenz is now located in Nuernburg, where it has moved to dodge the Russians. This factory might be of interest as a target, for some secrecy equipment, mainly teletype was made by them, according to a report submitted by Liebknecht.

IV. PROFESSOR VIERLING

Professor Vierling will be arrested by the military government section as soon as they can bring it about. He is charged with being a member of the SS and with having had Gestapo railroad a few workers. One witness is Zapp; he is said to have escaped from the Gestapo into Hamburg, where he later got himself into British hands. He is now believed to be in Ebermannstadt, and it is expected that he will be interrogated.

Scientifically Vierling has what appears to be a good record. He has taught at technical high schools at both Berlin and Hanover and run private laboratories at both places. He has contributed many papers on acoustics to reputable journals, hitting his peak about 1937.

Vierling's history is spectacular. He was poor, but he finally won a scholarship to Technical High School. He got a doctorate and taught at Berlin,

He opened a laboratory there on the side and says that he began to amass a small fortune. In 1938 he went to Hanover and the fortune grew in another private laboratory. He says that he made much money out of a test using 7 meter radio waves to determine the wearing qualities of rubber made with a substitute for charcoal. He claims to have built the Feuerstein Laboratory privately after his Hanover establishment (which is still running) was damaged in a bombing. His staff designed and built the place (he says), opening two quarries for rock, etc. Nine months were required for the construction. He ran out of money, refused to sign the papers OKH wanted before they would give him the 850,000 marks he claimed he needed. Actually (he says) he needed only 450,000 which he borrowed from the industrial bank. He borrowed this money in 1941 and has since repaid it from his profits. At no time did he take OKH money, he says. He has a most expensive and well chosen library and a few keepsakes which look more like they belong to Hearst than a physicist; their origin has not been checked.

V. OTHER PERSONNEL

Now working in the laboratory are the following:

Name	Assignment
Oskar Vierling	Director
Friederich Geise	Draughtsman (an architect)
Erwin Fleischer	Metal worker, plumber
Hans Huebner	Electrical engineer (amplifiers, recorders)
Heinrich Bauer	Master craftsman
Heinrich Herbst	Apprentice
Hans Rosensweig	Machinist
Horst Hager	Machinist
Hans Selke	Partially trained electrical engineer
Hertha Riechenberg	Assauensis
Hertha Ende	Librarian, draughtsman, abstractor of scientific papers
Gretl Alberth	Janitor
Theodor Seitz	Apprentice
Stephan Raebel	Translates breadboard models to cabinet models
Wolfgang Neidl	Wiring
Margarethe Huebner	Kitchen
Baptist Hammerschnitt	Machinist
Pancraz Wagner	Machinist

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Erwin Fleischer	Metal worker, plumber
Hans Huebner	Electrical engineer (amplifiers, recorders)
Heinrich Bauer	Master craftsman
Heinrich Herbst	Apprentice
Hans Rosensweig	Machinist
Horst Hager	Machinist
Hans Selke	Partially trained electrical engineer
Hertha Riechenberg	Assanensis
Hertha Ende	Librarian, draughtsman, abstractor of scientific papers
Gretl Alberth	Janitor
Theodor Seitz	Apprentice
Stephan Raebel	Translates breadboard models to cabinet models
Wolfgang Neidl	Wiring
Margarethe Huebner	Kitchen
Baptist Hammerschmitt	Machinist
Pancraz Wagner	Machinist
Helene Buttke	Cleaning and wiring

The following live on the premises but have no job in or access to the laboratory:

Name	Status
Eva Geise	Wife of Friederich Geise
Karin Geise	Child of Friederich Geise
Helga von Sanden	Ill, sometime stock clerk
Mathilda Stiegler	Chambermaid
Wally Vierling	Estranged wife of Oskar Vierling
Walter Vierling	Child of Oskar and Wally Vierling

The following visit the laboratory at times to confer with Vierling, but are not admitted to the working section:

Name	Status
Fritz Ende	Mathematical consultant
Ganz	High voltage and X-ray researcher

Some of or all the following are expected back when work in the laboratory is resumed (by August 1 presumably):

Name	Assignment
Diplom. Ing. Schindler	Magnetic recorders
Dr. Griese	HF transmitters and receivers, crystal oscillators
Dr. Warnecke	Modulators, wobbling
Dr. Clubrecht	Filters
Diplom. Ing. von Sanden	Physicist, encoding machines
Ing. Jacobi	Engineer
Ing. Schuette	Engineer - Gleichlauf
Kehr	Partially trained engineer
Hans-Peter Elsaesser	Partially trained engineer
Stubenrauch	Tool maker
Huebsmann	Metal worker
Reichelmann	Machinist
Fritz Odenthall	Technician
Werner Wagner	Technician
Anna Beck	Cleaning and Wiring

Name	Assignment
Hulda Hennig	Cleaning and wiring
Emma Matthes	Cleaning and wiring
Alfred Jaekel	Head janitor

Finally Dr. Liebknecht is still held in the transmitter house. He is slowly expanding his report, already submitted and translated, and it is believed that he will be of no further use at Ebermannstadt when it is complete. He should probably be held here until other members of the inspecting party have a chance to interrogate him, but no new material is expected from this. His family lived in Thuringen, now occupied by Russia, when he last heard from them, but they were only three or four kilometers from the Bavarian border and he believes that they might have got across. No discrepancy between the stories of Liebknecht and Vierling have been detected. It is strongly recommended that Liebknecht be removed from Ebermannstadt at an early date and that he be released if practicable.

(signed)

CHARLES B. TOMPKINS
Lieut. USNR

JOHN H. HOWARD
Lieut. USNR